THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. During 1995-96 and 1996-97, 32 lakh and 41 lakh beneficiaries respectively were assisted under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, 8 lakh poor pregnant women respectively were assisted under the National maternity Benefit Scheme.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Ensuring response from State Governments on Drinking Water Projects

4204. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received requests for drinking water projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that proper response and project details are not tendered by the Andhra Pradesh Government in response to the queries;

(c) the steps Government propose to ensure better response from State Governments in such matters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) After technical scurtiny of the projects by a team of experts, the State Government is requested either to furnish certain addition/clarification or to modify and submit and projects for further processing and clearance. It is a fact that at times and modification of the projects take some time. Since the initiative is taken by the State Government in getting the projects approved, no avoidable delay has been observed on the part of the State Government in the matter.

Increase in LPCD Norms

4205. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it was agreed to increase the LPCD norms from 40 LPCD to 55 LPCD and allow 30 per cent private house connections in the Chief Ministers' meeting convened by the Prime Minister on the 4th July, 1996 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps taken for implementation of the decisions;

(c) if no steps have been taken so far, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Chief Minister's Conference held on 4-5 July, 19% had recommended that the present norms of 40 LPCD be revised to 55 LPCD.

(b) to (d) It is proposed to implement the above recommendation, after providing safe drinking water facilities as per the existing need to all the 'Not Covered' and 'Partially Covered' habitations.

Schemes for Upliftment of Rural Artisans

4206. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated/ implemented for the upliftment of rural artisans, so far, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(b) the additional facilities proposed to be provided to them during 1997-98; and

(c) the names of items manufactured under the said schemes during the last two years and the countries to which these items were exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTERY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) This Ministry is implementing a scheme of Supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans. Under the Scheme, Rural Artisans living below poverty line are to be given improved tools to enable them to enhance the quality/quantity/ marketability of their products and reduce their drudgery. Initially, it was launched in selected districts later from 1995-96 it was extended to entire country except UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh. Under this scheme, artisans from different crafts except weavers, tailors, needle workers and beedi-workers are provided improved toolkits. The average cost of toolkits is Rs. 2000/- and the unit cost is to be fixed by the DRDA concerned. The artisans are required to contribute 10% of the cost of the toolkits as their contributions with the balance 90% being met as subsidy from the Government of India. The use of power driven toolkits upto the cost of Rs. 4500/- has also been permitted under the scheme. Beyond this, it is to be linked to loan under IRDP. At the district level the DRDA is the nodal agency for implementation. The prototype of improved tools in pottery, carpentry, blacksmithy, leather work, wood crafts, metal craft and lacquerware have been developed by the National Small industries Corporation, Regional Design and Technical Development Centre under the Development Coommissioner, Handicraft and other organisations. If the State Governments feel that better alternatives to improved tools suitable to local conditions are available in their States, they are free to choose these models, subject to the approval by the State Leval/District level/ Task Force/ Technical Committee set up for the purpose.

(b) No additional facilities are proposed to be provided to the rural artisans during 1997-98.

(c) The rural artisans whom the toolkits are supplied are free to manufacture any items of their choice and they are free to sell their products anywhere they like. Information regarding export of such items to other countries is not monitored.

मध्य प्रदेश में इन्दिरा आवास योजना के अंतर्गत आवास

4207.**श्री राघवजी :** क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इन्दिरा आवास योजना के अंतर्गत मध्य प्रदेश में जिला-वार कितने आवासों का निर्माण करने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया था ;

(ख) अब तक कितने आवासों का निर्माण किया गया है ; और

(ग) क्या शेष आवासों का निर्माण-कार्य मार्च 1997 के अंत तक पूर्ण हो जाएगा, यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चन्द्रदेव प्रसाद वर्मा) : (क) 1997-98 के दौरान इंदिरा आवास योजना के अन्तर्गत मध्य प्रदेश में आवासों के निर्माण के लिए निर्धारित जिलेवार अनंतिम लक्ष्य विवरण में दिए गए हैं (नीचे देखिए)

(ख) इंदिरा आवास योजना के शुरू होने (1985-96 में) से लेकर अब तक मध्य प्रदेश में लगभग 405308 आवासों का निर्माण किया गया है ।